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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 13 | Humidity 58% Mainly clear sky. Misty morning Sensex 57,011 | Nifty 16,985 | Gold 48,684 | Silver 62,094 | Dollar 76.01 | Euro 85.44 | GBP 100.69

THE WAY OF DONORS

More kidney donations have been recorded this year

PAGE 2

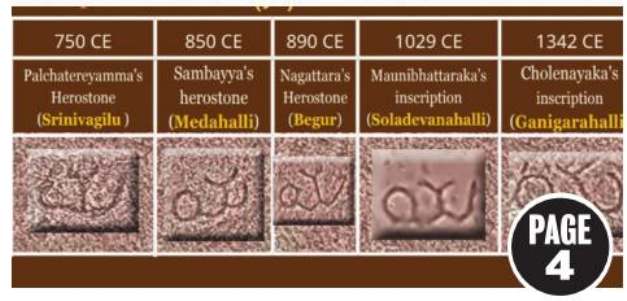
UNEVEN AND ODD

Dent in newly laid Race Course Rd

PAGE 3

500 YEARS OF HISTORY

Singapura scripture demystified



PAGE 4

City police chief promises better-behaved men in uniform as motorists allege harassment at the hands of traffic cops

BEAT POLICE

When documents are not enough

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KAUSHIK JN

Motorists are raising complaints of harassment at the hands of the traffic police at almost every junction in the city.

The road users alleged, even if they have all the required documents with them, the cops make them wait unnecessarily and speak and behave in a rude and disrespectful manner.

Some of the motorists complained that the police personnel demanded money despite the former having all the required documents. The cops insisted, the motorists alleged, to see emission test documents though this is not required for new vehicles.

Vineeth*, a software engineer and a resident of RT Nagar, said that in the last two weeks, he was stopped twice by the traffic police for no reason: "In the first instance, I was on my bike. I was wearing my helmet and had my mask on, but I was stopped for no reason in the busy RT Nagar Junction. I gave them all the required documents. One of the constables took my driving licence and went away, asking me to wait. There were no pending fines in my name. I had insurance, emission test certification and other vehicle-related documents with me. Still, I was made to wait for 15 minutes for no reason. The constable kept asking me to speak to the officer, to have my driving licence back. The officer in question was not even responding to me. After a while, the officer looked at me and asked me to leave as I had all the documents, and returned my DL."

"Stopping vehicles unnecessarily is not right and such instances should not take place in the city. I will speak to the DCPs to make sure it doesn't happen again
— Kamal Pant, city police chief

According to Vineeth, the second time, he was stopped while he was in the car with his wife and their two-month-old infant. "This time too, I had all the documents in possession when they stopped me and took my DL. They spoke to me rudely and asked me to wait to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Where's the light at the end of the tunnel?

Metro tunnel boring machines are said to have accomplished lesser than 20 per cent of the task

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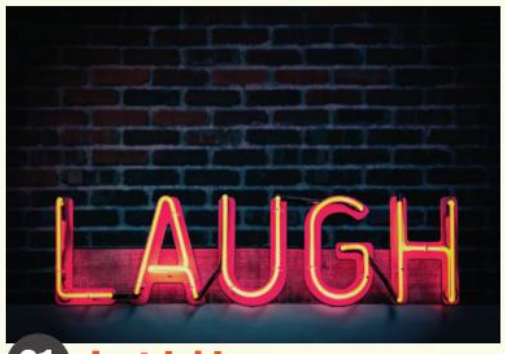
The more things change, the more they remain the same -- for instance, the pace of the Metro work. Despite a bitter learning from the first phase that the entire project can get terribly delayed if tunnelling work is delayed, unfortunately the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation has not fixed its act.

As of now, phase two work is going on and we are sorry to note that, to begin with, the tendering process for tunnelling work was delayed. As per the report of work done, the project is moving at a snail's pace at a few portions where tunnelling work is in progress. This is crucial as the tunnelling will decide the pace of execution of Phase two of the Metro.

According to the BMRCL newsletter, the Bhadra Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) which is excavating earth (south bound) from Venkateshpura station to Retrieval Shaft (total length 4.591 km) has so far completed 203 m -- which translates to just 16 per cent of its work being completed. The Tunga (north bound TBM) on the same stretch has managed to complete only 117.6 m which is a mere 9 per cent of the work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Jest joking

Do you have a special talent for jokes? Here's your chance to try out your best numbers in front of a live audience. Frontrow is organising open mic sessions, twice everyday. Book your virtual seats now and get ready to laugh or make people laugh. Each session will be one hour and 15 minutes.
When: December 20 onwards, 8 and 10 pm
Where: Online; Register: bookmyshow.com
FREE

02 Have a joyful Klausmas

Indian Institute of Cartoonists is organising 'WITTY WORLD', an exhibition of cartoons by an Austrian cartoonist, Klaus Pitter at the cartoon gallery. Pitter, born 1947, is a famous Austrian cartoonist. He has studied graphic arts at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and lives in Vienna as a freelance cartoonist and Illustrator. He has illustrated a series of books on environmental education and many schoolbooks. He has also illustrated several cartoon and comic books. His drawings are regularly published in the Austrian magazine "konsument". Come, take a look at his art.
Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, No.1, Midford House, Midford Garden
When: Until December 25, 10 am to 6 pm (everyday except Sundays)

03 Festive fun

The Holly Jolly Season is here! Make your home a holiday haven with the newly launched Christmas collection from The Yellow Dwelling, a contemporary sustainable furnishing and décor brand. The charming collection of cushions, placemats, curtains, table runners, tree trinkets & ornaments is sure to set the mood for all the year-end celebrations.
Where: theyellowdwelling.com/, all Bengaluru outlets; When: Ongoing; Call: 96062 46004

The way of donors

Although eyes have been the most popular choice for organ donation in recent years, more kidney donations have been recorded this year

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Despite a rise in donations, the demand for organs is far greater than their supply, which puts many on a waiting list

The desire to donate organs to save lives has grown as more and more people have started to want to donate. Eye donations have been known to be the most popular way to do so. However, statistics show more kidney donations than eye ones.

According to Jeevanasarthakate (State Government project), 262 donations (total organs and tissues) have been recorded this year (until October 2021). Out of these, 81 were kidneys, 66 were corneas, 54 were livers, 19 were hearts, 10 were lungs, two small bowels, one heart and lung, two kidney and pancreas, three liver and kidneys, six were for multi-organ and skin donations and 18 were donations of heart valves.

The statistics are compiled from 2005 and the number of donations was in single digit until 2008. Donations picked pace in 2014 when their number reached 194 (overall) and then peaked in 2019 with 511 donations. However, covid affected donations as the number dipped to 168 in 2020. This year, the maximum donations were recorded in August (52).

Jeevasarthakathe was constituted by the state government for a sustained deceased donor (Cadaver) transplantation programme in the state of Karnataka. It is the body appointed to oversee the implementation of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act of 1994. The organisation is coordinating deceased donor transplantation activities and also educating the public about organ donation.

According to officials, anyone from a child to an old person can be a donor. Even if the person has had a serious illness in the past, they can still become donors under the right circumstances.

Recipients will be chosen based on need, waiting time and blood group. If necessary, by tissue characteristics too. There is a waiting list for organ transplants because the demand exceeds supply.

"A series of tests have to be completed before brain death is declared by a panel of medical experts. During this period the patient's vital organs are kept functioning using support systems. The decision to disconnect them lies with the family. However, opting to donate eyes, kidneys, liver, pancreas, heart and heart valves to those in dire need of them can turn tragedy into triumph by giving another life a second chance. Anybody who meets the medical criteria can donate their organs by signing a donor card that states their wish.

This signed donor card is a legal document and doctors can retrieve organs and tissues after death provided there is no objection on the part of close relatives. This is why it is so important to let your family know your feelings regarding this. Anybody who meets the medical criteria can donate their organs by signing a donor card that states their wish.

This signed donor card is a legal document and doctors can retrieve organs and tissues after death provided there is no objection on the part of close relatives," an official told BM.

Eye pledges increase after Puneeth's donation

The number of eye donation pledges has grown six times in the state after the sad demise of Powerstar Puneeth Rajkumar. He had helped four blind people by donating his eyes. Thousands of fans have registered for eye donation and many are inspired and pledged to donate their eyes after their death. Since 2017, 1,750 members are registered in the portal by October 29, 2021. But after the demise of Puneeth, the number of pledges rose to over 6,000. From the last two years, even though there is an opportunity for registering online for eye donation, the numbers are very less due to the pandemic. Between February 2020 and September 2021 the pledges had reduced by 70 per cent. Most eye hospitals in the state are also witnessing double the rate of eye donation and pledges. NGOs have also registered the highest number of pledges. As per another positive development, blood relatives of the dead persons are voluntarily permitting eye donation. This year from November 1 to December 9, there have been 4,705 pledges for eyes on the Jeevasarthakathe website. In a top hospital, around 90 eyes per month were available as donations. But after Puneeth's donation, these numbers increased and in the last fifteen days, 112 eyes have been donated. An ophthalmologist said, "The pledging of eyes has drastically increased. This will definitely light up the lives of many blind people."
— Prakash VL

According to statistics, 262 donations (total organs and tissues) have been recorded this year (until October 2021). Out of these, 81 were kidneys, 66 were corneas

Cheques handed over to kin of covid victims

Karnataka Minister for Housing and Infrastructure Development V. Somanna on Sunday handed over compensation cheques to the family members of those who died due to covid, in Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru. "We have a greater responsibility of infusing courage and hope to the family members who have lost their dear ones to covid," Minister Sommana said. "The families who lost their members to covid are still in grief. It is our duty to provide relief to them. Today cheques are distributed to 100 families of covid victims and as many as 300 cheques were distributed to covid victim's families last week," he stated. Rs 50,000 compensation is given to Above Poverty Line (APL) families and Rs 1 lakh cheque as well as Rs 50,000 cash is being directly transferred to the accounts of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood as an icon in the world as far as managing the covid situation is concerned. We have managed the difficult situation of the pandemic under his leadership. People should be careful about the third wave," Somanna said. He further said that the construction of a hospital has been the top priority of the government. A multi-speciality hospital will be inaugurated in a few days to cater to the healthcare services of the people of Bengaluru. — IANS

Uneven and odd

Newly asphalted Race Course Road has developed a dent that is giving motorists a rude shock

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It's been just a week that the going on Race Course Road was smooth. But the joy was not to last long. A new pothole has emerged on the main road next to the Chalukya Hotel and the motorists have started to complain and wonder about the quality of road work carried out by the Bengaluru Smart City Ltd.

Last week, BSCL had asphalted the Race Course Road along with Rajbhavan Road and surrounding areas. With heavy vehicle movement on the Race Course Road, the asphalt sunk in and sandbags have been put there as a temporary solution. Akash, a resident of Rajajinagar, said the road was fine to begin right and the asphalting only ruined the situation.

"How can a pothole appear on a newly laid road? It must mean poor quality work was done. The asphalt was probably not levelled properly. I was riding my two-wheeler at high speed as the road was smooth and had not expected a pothole. So when it sprung up on me like an unwanted surprise, I had to take a sudden right turn to avoid falling in it. There was a car behind me which had slowed down as the signal turned red else it would have hit me. Many four wheelers too had to apply sudden brakes and the vehicles behind were also affected," he said.

KAUSHIK JN

As heavy vehicles passed through the newly-laid Race Course Road a portion sunk in; Cement bags were used as a temporary fix

Another motorist said that such dents are not good for those travelling in cars too as they can develop injury on their back and neck while driving on uneven surfaces. "These are busy junctions and the roads have to be pothole free. It is difficult to locate the pothole in the night as there are no proper lights and I drove over it as I couldn't see. After I took the turn, the Millers Road was uneven too and this road too was asphalted last week. The entire stretch was smooth except the two patches where it was very bumpy," he said.

> **"As soon as we finished work on Race Course Road, some heavy vehicles went over it and the asphalt sank** – BSCL official

High Grounds traffic police said the road near the Hotel Chalukya is uneven and the Smart City workers had levelled it but one patch has sunk in. "There is a smooth flow of vehicles at the junction and traffic is not affected by it. As it is near the signal, vehicles will automatically slow down and no accidents have taken place in the area. The pothole is temporarily fixed using sand bags and will be fixed soon," said the traffic police.

An official from BSCL said that after they asphalt the road, they leave it on for two hours to cool down only after which vehicles are allowed to use the road. "However, on Race Course Road and Millers Road as soon as we finished the work and before the traffic police could divert the vehicles, some heavy goods vehicles went over it and the asphalt sank in. We need to asphalt the stretches again," he said.

BENGALURU

Shivaji statue vandalism: 7 arrested

Seven persons have been arrested in connection with desecration of statue of Chattrapati Shivaji in Bengaluru, police said on Sunday. The incident has created tension in the bordering town of Belagavi, as people vandalised the statue of local freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna in retaliation.

The arrested were identified as Chetan Gowda, President of Karnataka Ranadheera Pade, Gurudeva Narayankumar, Varun, Naveen Gowda, Vinod, Chetan Kumar and Yogesh Gowda. According to police, the accused desecrated the statue of Shivaji to retaliate for the burning of Kannada flag in Maharashtra's Kolhapur.

DCP, Central, Anucheth said that the accused had planned to desecrate the statue four days ago and executed their plan in Bengaluru last Thursday. They visited the spot on Monday and Tuesday for a recce, and made an futile attempt to desecrate the statue last Wednesday, but beat police foiled their plan.

Later, a group of 13 members including the accused executed their plan on Thursday. A hunt is on for others who are absconding, the DCP added.

Meanwhile, as Kannada organisations have given a call for a protest march to Belagavi to condemn the vandalisation of Sangolli Rayanna statue, Belagavi Police Commissioner K Tyagarajan has issued prohibitory orders till December 22. — IANS

Woman set out to buy scooter for ₹27k, ends up losing ₹88k

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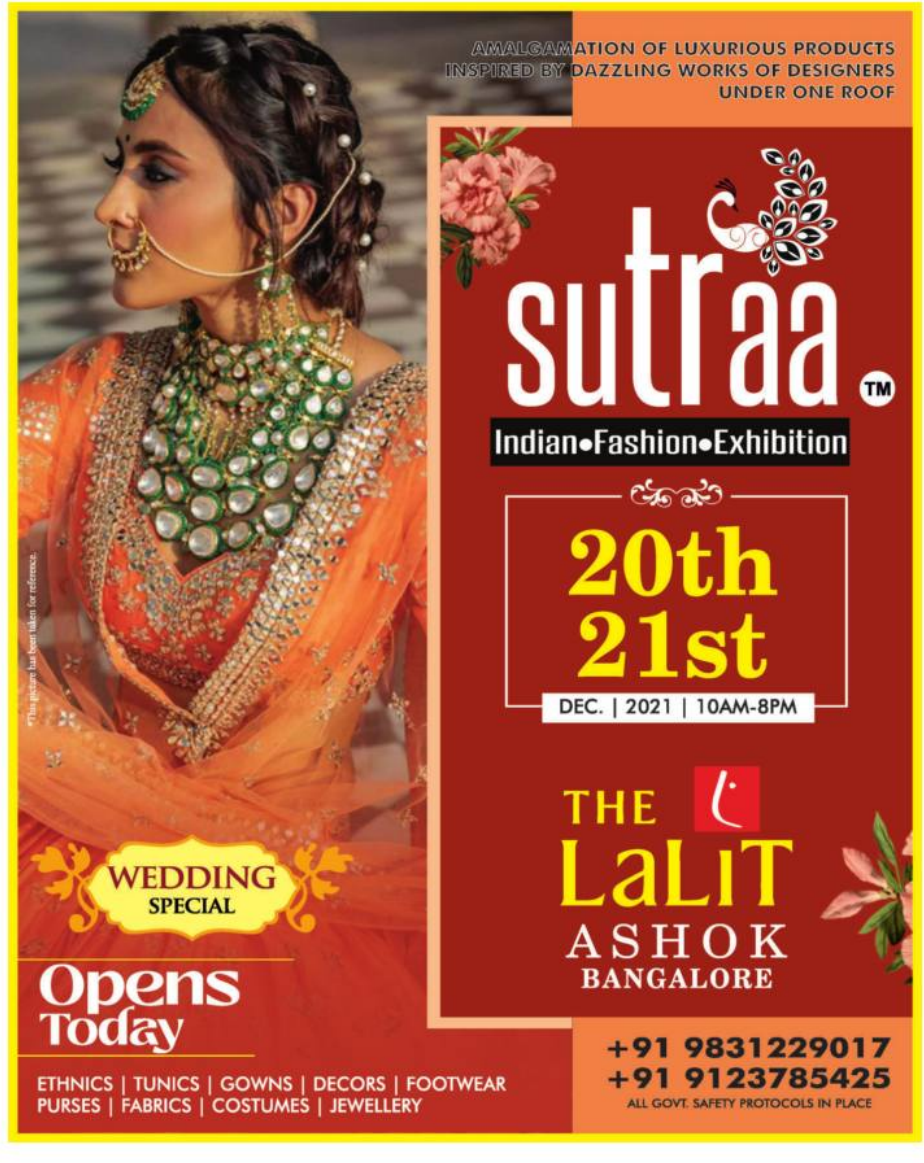
A woman working in a top multi-national corporation, who wanted to buy a used scooter, was swindled by a person claiming to be an army man. According to a police complaint, the woman was looking to buy a used scooter. The seller had posted the ad for an Honda Activa at Rs 27,000. She contacted the seller and decided to buy the vehicle.

At first he asked her to pay the advance (25 per cent) for which she paid around Rs 6,750 via UPI and waited to receive the delivery next day.

In a written complaint, she has alleged that the seller had given a fake Aadhaar card and other credentials to prove that he was an army man. He had even shared photos of the scooter getting packed by two men so the woman believed it was in good hands. The next day, the woman got a call from the seller saying that the scooter needs to be transported from Dharwad and he will do that using defence transportation for which some assurance / security deposit was needed. For this, she paid Rs 10,000.

Later she got a call from a person called Junaid Uddin demanding more money as it has reached Bengaluru and he needs to pay border tax charges which will also be repaid. She paid another Rs 5,000. In the complaint, she alleged, "I had already paid so much and I thought if the scooter reaches me it would be worth it. I thought if I pay for all the taxes and security it would be returned later in cash. The accused was in touch with me the whole day demanding money for various reasons related to scooter, I ended up paying him Rs 88,400 in total and then in the evening when the vehicle did not reach me I realised it was a scam and I begged him to return my money as I had been saving it for a long time."

She went to the police station with her complaint. When her brother called up the accused, he was abused. "The criminals might be sitting in the next building, but they are free, and we are worried, and don't know what to do. I still see his last seen on WhatsApp in the afternoon and I always feel like calling him but deep down I know I cannot do anything. Hope the police will help me," she told Mirror.



500 years of history unearthed, demystified

A team of historians found valuable scripture in Singapura, documented and simplified the complex script for locals via a monthly magazine

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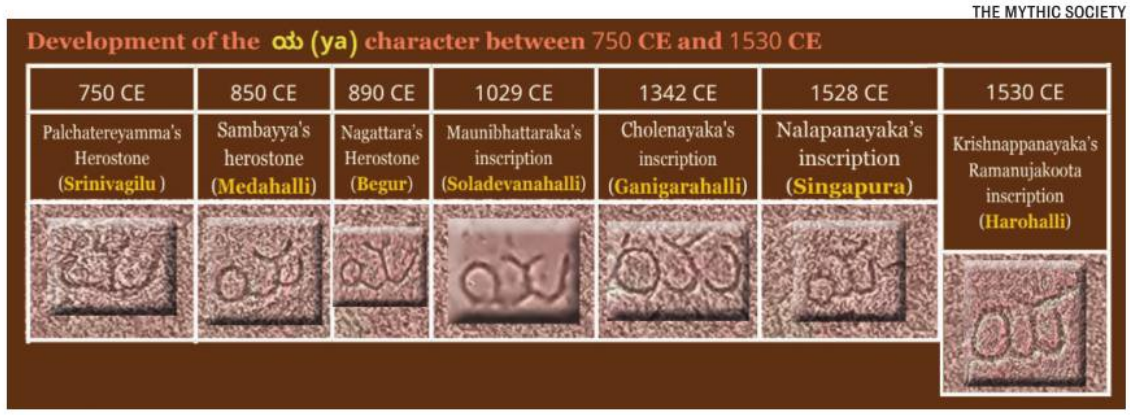
THE MYTHIC SOCIETY



Two weeks ago, The Mythic Society launched their monthly magazine, Bengaluru Itihaasa Vaibhava (Bengaluru's Grand History). Using their ability to digitise inscriptions, the team made the history available to locals

It has been a couple of years since the 500-year history of Singapura was unveiled by historians. However, it was only 2 weeks ago that locals of the area became aware of it.

Over the years, the history of Singapura was lost and had faded away from the memories of locals. However, this changed when historians unearthed three inscriptions in the area that led to a lot of study about this part of the city. A study on the inscriptions located adjacent to Jalahalli revealed Singapura was a prime destination for religious discussions.

When historians found the inscriptions, although most of them were installed in temples, some of them were found in abandoned states but were safely maintained. However, they were written in old Kannada scripts and locals, including temple priests, were unaware of the cultural significance of these stones or the locality. "Inscriptions found all over the city were created when the area made important achievements like building a lake or a temple. The purpose of recording these things on stones was to establish transparency with the public," said historian Udaya Kuman PL.

Historians said that one of the inscriptions was found in Vardaraja Swamy Temple. Although the temple has modern architecture at the front, it's a place buried with rich cultural history. They found that Singapura was a Sri Vaishnava hub and home to a unique religious organisation, Ramanujakoota. The organisation provided food and accommodation for religious scholars who came to the place. They also had very specific dietary restrictions and specific instructions regarding how to cook and who should cook. The institution was financed by 2,000 acres that were given to the temple for running the institution's operations.

This land was leased out to farmers, who in turn paid the temple with the produce. The inscription was documentation of this donation made by the villagers. Out of three, one was found in a temple in Harohalli, another in an unused part of the temple in Chikbettahalli, and another was in the middle of a coconut grove. Due to the Sudarshan Chakra on the inscription, the stone was worshipped by the landowners.

Two weeks ago, The Mythic Society launched their monthly magazine, Bengaluru Itihaasa Vaibhava (Bengaluru's Grand History), documenting the rich history of Singapura. Building on their ability to digitise inscriptions, the team made the local history available to the residents in a more demystified and simplistic manner. In addition to telling narratives around the area, the team has managed to digitise the old script and made it more accessible than any history book. Using character-by-character transliterations and translations in Kannada and Roman characters, locals were able to read the inscriptions for the first time.

Around 2,000 copies of the magazine have been downloaded over the course of 2 weeks

The launch of the magazine was held in Singapura and it was inaugurated by the oldest, living, resident of the place. Soft copies of the magazine have been circulating across the internet making information previously deemed privileged at the fingertips. Around 2000 copies of the magazine have been downloaded over the course of 2 weeks.

"Earlier methods to document the script would involve epigraphists writing down the script by hand and a great level of expertise was required for this purpose, Each epigraphist handwriting would also differ, making chinks at accuracy in the documenting process. It's the first time that someone has visually represented the scripts exactly as they appear on the stones," Udaya exclaimed proudly.

Another problem with the previous method was that it could not trace the transformation of the script over the years. "We are also trying to build software to digitise these scripts along with their evolutions. This will reduce the dependency on human expertise remarkably," added Udaya. The software is expected to be able to read inscriptions using the digital database with moderate accuracy.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Karnataka beats Rajasthan

Karnataka rode on half-centuries from K V Siddharth (85 not out), skipper Manish Pandey (52 not out) and R Samarth (54) to sail into the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Rajasthan here on Sunday.

Chasing 200 for victory in the pre-quarterfinal, Karnataka eased home with more than six overs to spare.

Earlier, sent in to bat, Rajasthan's total of 199 was built on a brilliant counter-attacking knock of 109 (nine fours and five sixes) by captain Deepk Hooda after the team slipped to 19 for 5.

Karnataka, bolstered by the return of K Gowtham, Devdutt Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna, had Rajasthan in all sorts of bother at 19 for 5 in the eighth over.

Krishna struck the first blow, having the in-form Abhijeet Tomar, who has scored over 300 runs including a ton in the tournament, caught by Padikkal for 5. Hooda, who had come in at the fall of the second wicket (Manender Singh), was joined by Samarpit Joshi and the duo began to rebuild. While the captain wasn't afraid to go for the big hits, Joshi (33 off 63 balls) gave him ample support. The two added 118 runs for the sixth wicket to give some hope to Rajasthan against a strong Karnataka side.

Despite losing Joshi, Hooda continued to score runs and reached a well-deserved ton in 99 balls. Pandey finished the match with a huge six off leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

— PTI

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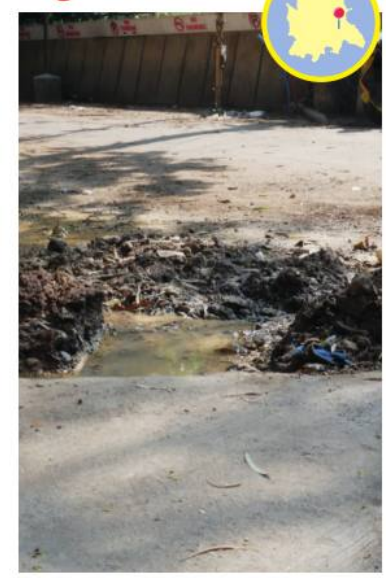
Bad road
DJ Halli

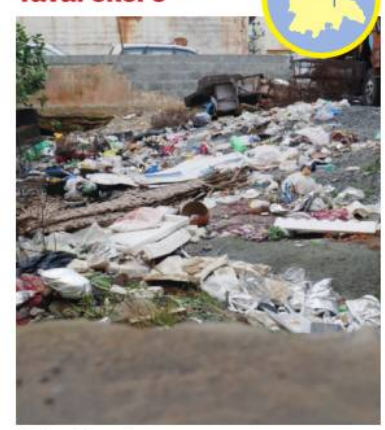
Many utilize this way to commute to school, the market, or religious places, yet Malik Saheb Road has been in a bad condition for years.

Scarred path
Magrath Road



Construction work on the road has led to water clogging and potholes has sprung up on the road.

Waste land
Tavarekere



This pile of waste has been troubling residents for a while. They say the stench is unbearable.

Trouble-shooters

Pulikeshinagar residents use online ticketing system to collate grievances and help authorities fix things faster

The PNRWA has cleared out black spots from three areas. They also educate residents of the area about keeping the surroundings clean and encourage them to maintain cleanliness

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A few Pulikeshinagar residents are working two jobs to maintain the basic infrastructure in their locality. Tired of waiting around for the authorities to act, they are now collecting funds and collaborating with civic authorities to create the changes themselves.

The Pulikeshinagar RWA has been trying to fix basic civic issues in ward no. 78 like clearing black spots, solving garbage pickup issues and beautification work. The RWA bridges the gap between the residents' concerns and the authorities.

A seven-member core committee has been working 4-5 hours along with two advisories for the past year. Most members dedicate hours after their day jobs. Using the online ticketing system, the team collates residents' grievances across the ward, communicates with the complainant, develops a comprehensive picture of the issue, and collaborates with relevant departments to get it fixed. Using the data collected from the online ticketing system and an additional grievance cell, they prepare project reports to submit to nodal officers, BBMP authorities and area MLA in the ward committee meetings.

"We had a garbage disposal issue in the area. Residents tended to sleep late at night and were unable to wake up early to give out garbage to BBMP workers. There was also the issue of garbage pickup trucks coming at different intervals. We also tried convincing residents to leave the garbage outside the house but the stray dogs would get at them. Most apartment complexes don't have a bin and we are not permitted to install a bin on the road. This was leading to creation of black spots," said Shuja Ul Haq, General Secretary, PulikeshiNagar RWA (PNRWA).

"We are sure that BBMP will act on the issues, but, it often takes a lot of time for solutions to get implemented. We informed BBMP that we will collaborate with them to expedite the changes," said Abdu Shakeeb, President of PNRWA.

The team collaborated with BBMP to get the garbage cleaned and then got the black sand removed. Further, the area was cemented and painted. The area was beautified to refrain residents from turning it into a black spot again.

> **We are sure that BBMP will act on the issues, but, it often takes time to get implemented. We told BBMP that we will collaborate with them to speed up the changes**
>
> –Abdu Shakeeb, PNRWA

Further, they educate the residents on social media about the pros and cons of keeping their surroundings clean. The core committee also pools in Rs 1,000 per person every month and uses it to fix aesthetic and hygiene problems. The team has limited funds, mostly contributed by core members and only reaches out for crowdfunding in bigger projects.

Notably, they have managed to clean black spots on three areas- Stephen's Road, Robertson road and Muneshwara temple.

Police chowki restoration

They have also picked up a new project- beautification of the traffic police chowkis.

"Most of these chowkis are in terrible condition. Some are rusted, some have damaged roofs, and some have lighting issues. Traffic cops find it difficult to sit inside them. We want to retain the structure and give it an aesthetic beautification" said Abdul.

Appreciating their work, the Pulikeshi Nagar Traffic Police Station approached the PNRWA to beautify chowkis across the ward. Currently, the Mosque Road chowki has been picked up and is almost nearing completion. The RWA team plans on funding this project by providing an advertisement to sponsors on these police chowkis. Eighty per cent of the area will be allocated to the traffic cops and 20 per cent will be split between PNRWA and the sponsor. Each chowki will cost the PNRWA an estimated Rs 10,000-15,000.

They are also currently in talks with BBMP to install gates at a location known for smuggling and other illegal activities to prevent the entry of miscreants. They also plan to undertake beautification work to clean up the area.

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It's lonely at the bottom too

At the MLC elections, many candidates didn't manage to secure even 20 votes; some did not get a single vote

A centre for polling equipped with hand sanitiser and other requirements of the time

Prakash VL
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Legislative Council elections have proved that the people who may end up securing zero votes too need not worry about taking the plung. It is not only those with money and might that may contest, but also candidates who won't a single vote too can try their luck at the hustings.

Among the 42 independent candidates that contested the MLC polls, only one could secure votes.

Ninety candidates tried their luck for the 25 seats in 20 constituencies of the legislative council. Among them, 46 per cent of the candidates couldn't even get 20 votes each. Three candidates got zero votes. Around 39 contestants got only 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 18 votes. Three members got 24, 50, and 54 votes. Among 90 candidates, 98,846 obtained valid votes.

Ninety candidates tried their luck for the 25 seats in 20 constituencies. Among them, 46% of candidates couldn't even get 20 votes each. Three candidates got zero votes

Of them, 42 candidates got only 370 votes. This created a question over the basic criteria for contesting for the upper house.

Highest in Dharwad

Around seven contestants in Dharwad, four each in Mysuru, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, Uttara Kannada, three each in Ballari and Shivamogga and two each in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Chitradurga, Hassan, Bengaluru city, Mandya were able to get only below 20 votes.

Ditched by proposers

To file the nomination, a candidate should get at least 10 members of his/her constituency to sign as proposers. Now, with the candidate getting zero vote, it goes to show that even those proposers didn't vote for them. In Bengaluru city, one candidate and two candidates from Chikkamagaluru got zero votes.

Poor show casts cloud on Bommai's leadership

The Legislative Council results have thrown major challenges to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to establish his leadership within the party leaders, cadre and among masses. Sections in the Karnataka BJP believe that Bommai has failed to assert his leadership in the government, party and among the people. In the recent Karnataka Legislative Council the ruling BJP won 12 out of 25 seats and the opposition Congress won 11, JD(S) one and an independent.

The BJP has doubled its tally from six to 12 in these 25 Karnataka Legislative Council seats on which polls were held, but shows that all is not well in the party after senior leader Mahantesh Kavatagimath lost in Belagavi, a region from where several state heavyweights belong.

The unimpressive performance has given ammunition to the rival camps, who have now started questioning Bommai's leadership and said even after months of becoming a chief minister he failed to assert himself either in the government or party as leader. Leaders in the Karnataka BJP blame Bommai for failing to establish himself. They say that is the biggest reason for the defeat of a couple of seats in the Legislative council polls. "Trusting Bommai, central leadership has been given a huge responsibility to him to lead the BJP government in the state by replacing BS Yediyurappa and the results show he has failed to fit in the shoes of the former chief minister," a senior party leader said. A Karnataka BJP MLA said that there is nothing to cheer about the results. Another BJP Karnataka leader pointed to the lack of acceptance of Bommai as the Chief minister and his failure to take everyone together. Even former Chief Minister Yediyurappa raised concern over losing Belagavi. He suggested that defeat must be discussed and the party must introspect.

'No post is permanent'

Meanwhile, the CM's emotional address to the people of his constituency Shiggaon has caused a flutter, and fuelled speculation in some quarters about his possible exit. "Nothing is eternal in this world. This life itself is not forever. We don't know how long we will be here in such a situation, these posts and positions are also not forever. I am aware of this fact every moment," he said.

There have been rumours that Bommai is likely to be replaced.

The CM is reportedly suffering from knee related problem, and may undergo treatment abroad but there was no official word on this. —Agencies

THE YEAR THAT WAS

Karnataka champs make a big splash

SS Shreekumar
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@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka topped the medals tally with 17 gold, 10 silver and nine bronze medals, including men and women, to win the overall team championship title with 36 medals in the 74th Senior National Aquatic Championships 2021 in Bengaluru during October 2021 at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre. Men won 12 gold, eight silver and three bronze while the women claimed five gold, two silver and six bronze medals.

Adjudged as the best swimmer of the meet, Srihari Nataraj was the pick among men as he claimed five gold with three meet records to boot, while Ridhima Veerendra Kumar took three gold medals among women.

Srihari Nataraj won the 100 m freestyle gold clocking 49.94 seconds and bettered his own meet record of 50.17 seconds. He also won the 50 m backstroke gold in 25.77 secs. On the final day, Srihari bagged the 200m Freestyle in 1:49.78 secs. which was a new meet record. He took a fourth gold winning the 200 m backstroke gold in 2:04.20 secs. Srihari qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2021 as well as he breached the A qualification mark and got a direct entry in the men's 100 m backstroke event.

Ridhima Veerendra Kumar bagged the women's 100 m backstroke event in 1:04.40 sec as also the 50 m backstroke in 29.94 secs. and the 200 m backstroke in 2:21.58 secs for her third gold medal. Shaon Ganguly (2:7.37 secs) and Siva S. (2:7.79 secs) won gold and silver in the 200 m medley. The duo repeated the 1-2 finish in the 400 m medley as well.

Karnataka also won the 4x50 m freestyle mixed relay with Srihari Nataraj, Ridhima Veerendra Kumar, Nina Venkatesh and Sambhavv R. being part of the team. Sambhavv went on to win the 50 m freestyle individual event in 23.65 secs.

Karnataka also made a clean sweep of the team championships in group III, IV and V in the boys and girls sections at the end of the 37th Sub Junior and 47th Junior National Aquatic Championships, also conducted in Bangalore during October 2021. Akshaj Thakuria in boys group III with five gold and Dnidhi Desinghu with five gold with three meet records was the best among girls. Niranjan Mukundan of Karnataka represented India in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics swimming competition's men's 50 m butterfly S7 event for the first time. He finished sixth in the heats.

SPORTS

Srihari Nataraj

Ridhima Veerendra Kumar

Archana triumphs

Rising table tennis star Archana Girish Kamath teamed up with Manika Batra to win the women's doubles title at the WTT Contender Lasko, Slovenia, on November 7, 2021. Ranked at No 36 in the World, they defeated the 23rd-ranked Puerto Rico of the Diaz sisters, Melanie and Adriana 11-3, 11-8, 12-10. In the quarterfinals, they lost to Sarah De Nutte and Xia Lian Ni of Luxembourg 1-11, 6-11, 8-11. This was Archana's best performance at the highest level of the sport and as Paris 2024 comes calling, all eyes will be on Archana.

Young orions champions

Young Orions Basketball Club emerged as the champions of the state A division basketball league while Army Service Corps took the second spot. Madras Engineer Group & Centre which bagged the B division league title while MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball Club took the second spot. In the C division league, Bharath Union took the top spot with Devanga Union placing behind them.

Among women, Sahana Shivamogga was selected for the Indian team for the 2021 FIBA Women's Asia Cup in Amman, Jordan, during Sept/Oct 2021.

Pankaj pockets 24th world title

Star Indian cueist Pankaj Advani bagged his 24th world title when he won the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup in Doha in September 2021 defeating Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final.

Varshaa is a champion

Varshaa Sanjeev Kumar, Bengaluru's most talented and rising cue sports exponent won her first senior women's billiards title in the 88th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the SAGE University hall on December 7, 2021.

Fine show FB
Facebook has paid 17 mn roubles ($229,643) in fines owed in Russia for failing to delete banned content

IIT Madras researchers develop motion planning algorithms that can think like humans

Thought in motion

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 # New Delhi

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed a class of fast and efficient "motion planning" algorithms which can think like human beings and enable autonomous aerial, ground or surface vehicles to navigate obstacle-cluttered environments.

According to the team, the algorithms have been developed on a novel notion of 'Generalised Shape Expansion' (GSE) that enables planning for a safe and dynamically feasible trajectory for autonomous vehicles.

These approaches have been found to yield superior results compared to many of the existing seminal and state-of-the-art motion planning algorithms.

Because of its novel calculation of "safe" region, it provides a crucial advance during time-sensitive planning scenarios arising in applications like self-driving cars, disaster response, ISR operations, aerial drone delivery and planetary exploration, among others, the team claimed.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are often deployed to survey affected regions and scan debris for search and rescue missions. Since in such applications, UAV paths need to be planned in advance in a time-critical manner, these algorithms can play a key role, they said.

The research led by Satadal Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras, has published several research papers in internationally reputed peer-reviewed journals like AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics, and IEEE Control Systems Letters, and top-tier conferences like IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), American Control Conference (ACC) and AIAA SciTech.

The team included IIT Madras alumni Vrushabh Zinage, a doctoral research scholar at University of Texas Austin (USA), Adhvaith Ramkumar, a graduate student at Warsaw University of Technology, Poland and Nikhil P, an analyst at Goldman Sachs.

"The GSE-based algorithms function by calculating a 'safe' region consisting of large 'visible' areas in the environment, customised to ensure navigability," Zinage said. "Following this, the algorithms select a random point in this 'visible' region and connect it through a safe 'edge' to the safely reachable regions discovered so far. Eventually, the algorithms can almost always connect any two points in any environment, which satisfies certain basic criteria," Zinage said.

"Drones equipped with our algorithms can be of major use during disaster management and response scenarios. In the wake of a disaster event such as an earthquake, UAVs are often deployed to survey affected regions and scan debris for search and rescue missions

Main advantage

The researcher explained that the GSE-based algorithms' main advantage lies in the significant improvement of computational efficiency over several other well-established motion planning algorithms. This naturally leads to strong applicability of the GSE-based algorithms in applications, where planning is time-sensitive.

"Instead of using computationally heavy dedicated collision checking modules, these algorithms leverage the novel notion of 'generalised shape', which gives a maximal representation of the free-space that is reachable from a point in the environment, which is almost similar to updating of human perception about the 'safe' space to move through surrounding him or her," said Adhvaith Rajkumar.

This, in essence, significantly improves rapidity of exploration of the environment leading to the necessity of only very few iterations of a GSE-based algorithm to connect the initial and goal regions.

Explaining the applications of the "motion planning" algorithms, Satadal Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras, said, "Drones equipped with our algorithms can be of major use during disaster management and response scenarios."

"In the wake of a disaster event such as an earthquake, UAVs are often deployed to survey affected regions and scan debris for search and rescue missions. Since in such applications UAV paths need to be planned in advance in a time-critical manner, our algorithms can play a key role," he said.

"Broadly speaking, the class of GSE-based algorithms has promising potential in autonomous applications ranging over warehouse material movement, inspection of project commissioning, drone delivery, disaster management, self-driving cars, and so on. For strategising coordinated motion in a multi-vehicle set-up also these algorithms could be leveraged," he said.

Status of research

The current status of this research, according to the team, is limited to theoretical development and improvement of the GSE-based algorithms and extensive realistic simulation-based validation of the same. The researchers are further planning to implement these algorithms on unmanned aerial and ground vehicles in the near future.

"In dynamic environments, where knowledge of the environment is limited to information from on-board sensors or when mission commands intervene in the movement of vehicles because of dynamically evolving mission-critical needs, for example intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) operations or planetary exploration using rovers, frequent time-critical re-planning of motion is called for," Ghosh said.

"Even in such cases also, our present study suggests that on-the-go motion planning becomes significantly easier by our GSE-based algorithms because of the unique nature of the visible regions calculated by these algorithms at different points in the environment," Ghosh said. **PTI**

BITS & BYTES

TOO SMALL IN INDIA FOR ANTI-TRUST CASE: APPLE

Apple Inc has asked India's antitrust watchdog to throw out a case alleging abuse of market power in the apps market, saying it is too small a player in the South Asian country where Google is dominant, a filing seen by Reuters shows.

The filing was made after the Competition Commission of India (CCI) started reviewing allegations that Apple hurts competition by forcing app developers to use its proprietary system which can charge commissions of up to 30% on in-app purchases. Apple denied the allegations in its filing to the CCI and stressed that its market share in India is an "insignificant" 0-5%, while Google commands 90-100% as its Android operating system powers most other smartphones.

FROM CONTROL PANEL TO THE SETTINGS APP

Tech giant Microsoft has moved several options from the Control Panel to the Settings app in a recent Insider build of Windows 11.

According to Windows Central, the company started shifting options from the Control Panel to the Settings app in Windows 8. Quite a few options migrated over with the rollout of Windows 11, but a recent Insider build of Windows 11 moved a small handful of settings to the Settings app, the report said.

Microsoft outlined the changes in the release notes of Windows 11 build 22509, which came out on December 1. "We have moved the advanced sharing settings (such as Network discovery, File and printer sharing, and public folder sharing) to a new page in Settings app under Advanced Network Settings," the company was quoted as saying.

USE THE GREEN THUMB TO START THIS APPLIANCE

The prolonged covid 19 pandemic has significantly changed how people spend their time at home, which became the location for everything from exercise to work. LG Electronics has rolled out an automated indoor gardening appliance, LG tiiun, which means "to sprout" in Korean, tapping into the growing need to grow plants, vegetables and produce at home all year round.

The gardening technology used for the latest home appliance, the company said, is the epitome of the tech company's "decades of expertise honed from developing advanced refrigerators, water purifiers and ventilation systems." The technologies enable the optimal conditions for plants' growth in terms of temperature, moisture and light.

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 38-year-old married woman. I have stopped getting my period. I think I am going through menopause. Please suggest a medicine which can increase my libido. All my other friends have very high sex drives and they make love frequently with their husbands. My low libido is taking a toll on my married life. I feel like having ganja or afeem to come out of this depression.
You must see a gynecologist to know why your periods have stopped. Also discuss your low sexual desire with the gynecologist. Later, have a frank chat with your husband and seek his help for you to improve your sex lives. Both of you could consult a sexpert.

2 My fiancé is 27 years old. We'll be getting married in another two months. He is suffering from hair loss and planning to take homeopathic treatment. But he's scared that these tablets have DHT inhibitors, which may reduce his libido. Is this true? He also gets excited very easily and has confessed that whenever we have kissed, he has ejaculated in his pants. He tells me that his erections are not very strong. I was happy that he shared his problem with me, but I'm nervous that our sex life may get affected. Please advise.
I strongly suggest that you direct him to a sexpert for advice on his premature ejaculation. If he is worried about the medicines he is taking, ask him not to take them and opt for being bald instead.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

9 signs you are a codependent parent

Codependency is a type of insecure, anxious attachment style rooted in a fear of abandonment and insecurity of being underappreciated

Codependency is an entwined union that portrays a sense of stagnancy between two generations, where they fail to become capable of autonomy or the ability to perform independently. Codependent parents manifest a degree of unhealthy clinginess, they cannot reinforce appropriate behaviour towards their children and it can be found in full range through the decades. A large part of it still endures today in the 21st century. The lines between safeguarding and obsession engaged and overly involved often fade beyond recognition.

Codependency is a type of insecure, anxious attachment style rooted in a fear of abandonment and insecurity of being underappreciated. It is known as "relationship addiction" where parents often feel nervous about being separated from their children. They often feel their child is capable enough to conquer the emotional turmoil. A codependent parent tries to exert excessive control over the child's life, without realising that they may be perpetuating the cycle. An adolescent's sense of identity cannot be built within children's minds as they constantly compromise on making choices and commitments due to overwhelming dependency.

Meanwhile, in conscious parenting, parents give importance to a revolutionary parenting paradigm i.e., "individualism". Children are driven to express their opinions openly. Children become responsible individuals who think and act according to their own perception, values and priorities.

So, ask yourself, are you a codependent parent or practising conscious parenting? No matter where you think you fall on the spectrum, for your child's brilliant future it is highly imperative to recognise the parenting style for signs of codependency.

Here are nine signs you may be a codependent parent:

Reluctance to see your child struggle
Nobody likes to watch their children facing adversities but parents should know that grappling with challenges equips a child with the ability to solve critical problems in life. In codependency, a parent develops an unwillingness to let their child struggle in any way. It is normal to safeguard your child from danger, but an extreme tendency to protect them can be alarming. In the long run, your persistence interference could prevent them from developing the life skills they require to succeed.

Controlling details of their life
Are you overly focused on your child? Do you volunteer yourself as in charge of choosing your child's career? Do you have an intense vested curiosity to know who your child hangs out with? Or is it consequential to identify what they like to do? If so, you might be a helicopter parent and are making your child's life regimented, one of the most common signs of codependency.

You employ 'yelling' as control tactics
It's not unusual for parents to raise their voices in exasperation from time to time. But if you constantly find yourself losing your temper at your child with an aim of changing their behaviour then you might be inching towards codependency. When you focus too much on correcting and changing your child's behaviour, you're straight away making your child responsible for your emotions, fundamentally asking them to ameliorate your anger and anxiety.

> **When you focus too much on correcting and changing your child's behaviour, you're straight away making your child responsible for your emotions**

You take a 'conservative approach'
In such a style of codependency, you tend to follow archaic protocols where you're unwilling to accept changes and new ideas coming from your children. You are afraid that your child's new idea and belief might pose a threat to your emotional needs. You must aim at becoming your child's support system, instead of wanting your child to support your needs. Encourage them to pursue the life they want.

You often manifest 'guilt-tripping' behaviour
Guilt trips can sometimes be intentional. In codependency, parents play victim which causes their children to feel guilt or understand the sense of responsibility to modify their behaviour or take a specific action. Often parents manifest guilt-tripping behaviour to gain sympathy from their children for the negative experiences they have been through.

You lean for 'emotional support'
In codependency, it is an unhealthy dynamic that appears in parenting where the parent seeks emotional support through their child that should attempt to fulfil the emotional needs. This type of unhealthy emotional relationship blurs the boundaries between the parent and child in a way that is psychologically inappropriate.

Involving kids in 'grown-up conflicts'
Involving kids in grown-up conflicts they shouldn't be a part of is a typical way of codependency. Parental rivalry can be positive. Conflicts are what helps couples to move forward and grow, but if you don't keep your child out of an adult business then you are putting your child's mental health at risk. Negative peer conflicts are a normal part of adolescence, but if you pressurise your child to take your side in an argument with your partner then it's a tell-tale sign of a codependent parent. You may end up manipulating your child to become selective and restore the balance in your favour.

You are a 'brick-wall' in a relationship
You are a parent who never listens. You become a "brick wall" during a conversation. You refute the fact and move on to a contrasting argument without addressing the point made by your child. No matter how valid the point is, you are a stubborn parent who is not ready to reevaluate the set of beliefs that you have in your mind.

You go through rapid 'mood swings'
A codependent parent has the ability to rapidly shift from one mood to another. A person may be yelling and screaming one moment, but once they get the attention, their feelings become euphoric. When the mood of a codependent parent becomes obnoxious, they exhibit attention-seeking behaviour as a result of heightened emotions where a parent can consciously or unconsciously attempt to become the centre of attention, very frequently to gain validation.

-Upassna B Singh, for IANS

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GUAAARDIIING THE CAARAAVAAAN!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A BARD DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SING ALL YOUR LINES.
ROLL FOR CHARISMA.
HEY! NUMBER ONE! TOP OF THE CHARTS!
HEART, A ONE IS NOT GOOD.
YOUR SINGING WAS SO LOUD THAT IT CAUSED AN AVALANCHE!

Crankshaft

MORDOR FINANCIAL HAS SOLD THE SENTINEL BUILDING AND IT'S GOING TO BE TURNED INTO FANCY APARTMENTS.
I SPENT MY LIFE IN THAT BUILDING... AND NOW I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LIVE THERE.
PIZZA
10-13
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW... I'VE GOT INK IN MY BLOOD AND THERE'S NO CURE.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

FOO. I'M TIRED OF TIME TRAVELING, EARL. LET'S GO HOME.
mutts.com
FROM WHAT I HEAR, MOOCH, YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THE PAST OR THE FUTURE. YOU CAN ONLY LIVE IN THE NOW.
YESH.
THAT'S THE REAL MAGIC.
10-23

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may be polite to the people around you. Many problems may get resolved with the help of your way of speaking. You may establish some control between your savings and expenditure, which may boost your savings. You may buy creative stuff to renovate your house.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Control your way of speaking around family, or it may affect domestic harmony. You may spend your hard-earned money to buy some worthless stuff to maintain your social status. Do not keep money in your pocket. You may face health problems related to ears, teeth and throat.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day for you. You have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work and your domestic life may be good too. Healthy partnerships will reap benefits in business. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds must avoid discussing self-respect-related issues.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You must control your way of speaking. Beware of hidden enemies and opponents. You may become a victim of a conspiracy. Avoid investing in risky assets. Avoid lending money to anyone as it may be difficult to recover it. Meditation and yoga may help with stress.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Impatient nature and arrogance will deter you from taking difficult decisions. You will be in need of the blessing of your elders, which will help you to grow on the work front. Avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds must avoid discussing bad moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are in the winning position against opponents and hidden enemies. Your money which was stuck may get recovered today. You may perform your best at work. Today is an important day for love birds and singles to make important decisions in terms of marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day for you. Last week's crunch is over now. You may initiate your postponed projects. You may get the reward of your hard work, which may boost your confidence. Gains from your business may boost your finances. Natives related to export and import, fashion and dairy products may do better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull and have health issues. Overworking your mind may make you tired. It may affect your domestic harmony. You may arrive late at a social or family get-together. Businesses may incur losses. Don't invest in a new business. Love birds must avoid controversies.

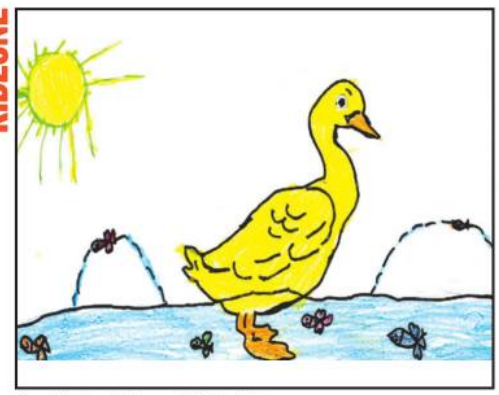
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may make new plans for your business and colleagues may help implement them. You may recover money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. After a late evening, you may feel some depression. This may affect your sleep.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Decisions in legal matters may work in your favour. Your seniors may be happy because of your hard work and you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find a soulmate.

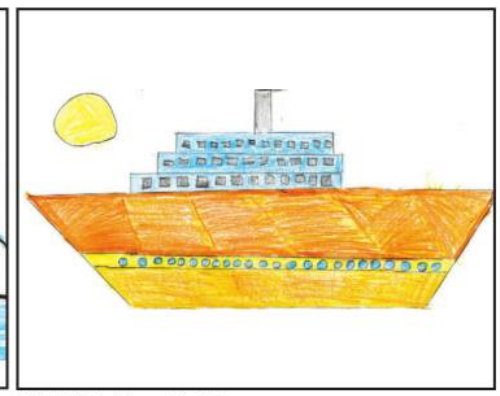
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be happy and plan to buy some creative stuff, which may improve your lifestyle. You may also spend money on your friends and family members. You may plan to make investments in assets. Singles may find a good match. Love birds may enjoy their important moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be seeking peace of mind. The moon's blessings may help you to focus on yourself. Investments in property and other assets must be avoided. You may have some happy moments in your domestic life. Avoid arrogance and ego around your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to get resolved

KIDZONE



Divya Sundar, 6 Years, NCFE Bangalore



Aditi Akella L, 6 Years, Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
36-6-1/6
36-1
35

QUOTE UNCODE
Organization charts and fancy titles count for next to nothing.

RIDDLER
A lion, king of the jungle! (the head of a lamb, the middle of a pig, the hind of a buffalo and the tail of a dragon)

FAST FIVE

S	M	A	R	T
L	O	N	E	R
U	T	I	L	E
M	E	M	E	S
P	L	A	T	S

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
C

BULL'S EYE
dour, drug, dupe, gourd, group, GROUPED, pour, pure, purge, purged, poured, proud, prude, rogue, rouge, rude, urge, urged

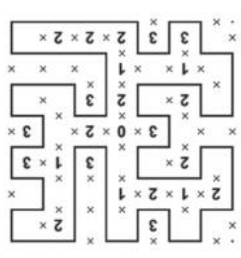
SUDOKU

2	1	3	8	6	4	5	7	9
5	4	8	7	2	9	1	6	3
9	7	6	5	3	1	8	2	4
6	2	5	3	9	8	7	4	1
7	9	4	6	1	2	3	5	8
8	3	1	4	5	7	2	9	6
3	6	9	1	7	5	4	8	2
4	5	2	9	8	3	6	1	7
1	8	7	2	4	6	9	3	5

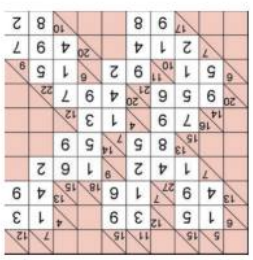
ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Eg, Ego, G, Go, Ego, Ogres, Rogues, Morgues.

GO FIGURE
4 + 4 x 3 + 2 = 26
Easy
9 + 7 + 3 + 4 = 23
Medium
9 x 2 – 6 – 6 = 6
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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'There's enough work for everyone, but there's pressure to be visible'

Chitrangda Singh tells us how 2021 has been to her

Shruti Jambhekar
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Chitrangda best known for her outings in Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi, Desi Boyz, Yeh Saali Zindagi and Baazar, says the pandemic made her realise the importance of finding happiness in small things in life (she even started painting), focus on wellness with regular workouts, healthy meals and sleep schedules and not to worry about her "next project". Excerpts from a chat:

'Our viewing habits have changed'

Professionally speaking, 2021 has been a satisfying year. While work has slowed down (a chunk of the first half of the year was spent in lockdowns), there have been new learnings too. We are now medium agonistic and content creation is no longer reserved for big screens. I recently had my first OTT release. The pandemic has redefined the way we are consuming entertainment and our viewing habits have undergone a massive change. I think OTT is a great way to reach out to the Hindi speaking diaspora across the globe. We have seen some interesting faces and smart content on OTT platforms this year.

'I follow a sustainable lifestyle'

I believe in a sustainable lifestyle. On the fitness front, I have begun doing more strength training and multi-gym workout. I do 45 minutes to one hour of cardio every day and sometimes go cycling in the evening. It is important for everyone to follow some kind of fitness regimen — be it yoga or even brisk walking.

'Select from the films you are offered'

I have always been selective about the kind of films I have done. As an actress I can only select from the films that I have been offered. Sometimes we are simply not fortunate to get the kind of roles we want to do. There was a time when I was offered only glam roles which I wasn't keen on doing. I wanted meaningful and meatier roles, so I chose to wait for the right opportunity and started writing (she's currently writing scripts) instead. I believe in pushing my creative boundaries. While there is enough work for all of us right now— there is also pressure of getting good work and staying visible.

'Satisfying to be involved in filmmaking'

I turned producer in 2018 (with Soorma) and it was an enriching experience for me. For a change I was not just restricted to emoting on camera and then going back to my vanity van after the shot. I was involved in all stages of the filmmaking process. It is a very exciting process. The entire process of making a film starts at least two years before the film's actual theatrical release. Being a producer is tough, but it is an enriching experience.

Looks good!

From Ragini Dwivedi to Radhika Narayan: Check out some of the pictures that took Instagram by storm.

To check out all the pictures, just point your phone camera at the QR code

Spidey fans, there's more in store for you

After the overwhelming response from fans on the recently released 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', Kevin Feige--president of Marvel Studios has confirmed that the production company and Sony are currently working on developing at least one more movie for the 'Spider-Man' franchise.

As per The Hollywood Reporter, the Marvel Studios president says he outright confirmed the news "because I don't want fans to go through any separation trauma like what happened after 'Far From Home.'" The outlet obtained the quotes of Feige and 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' producer Amy Pascal from an interview with the New York Times where both of them confirmed that their respective studios are currently inactive talks about where to take the superhero following the events of Tom Holland's third turn as the famed web-slinger.

Record-breaker

'Spider-Man: No way home' is smashing box office records in India. The movie registered a whopping Rs 32.7 crore on its opening day and is going strong. According to Sony Pictures, the film's first day's gross earning stood at Rs 41.5 crore. Interestingly, it is the highest among superhero movies released in the last few years. The latest film stars Tom Holland is being hailed as a refreshing change by fans. Many have gone on to call it a superhero movie with slick adventure and emotional depth.

When Kapil Dev lifted Sudeep's spirits

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev had once lifted Sudeep in his arms! Can you believe this? This was revealed by none other than 'Kiccha' himself. During a press meet in the city, Sudeep recalled his favourite memory.

"I don't remember the exact year as it could be some time between 1986 and 1988 when the Indian cricket team was staying at the Taj Westend hotel in the city. My family had taken me to get a glimpse of Kapil. I went around to find my icon Kapil but couldn't. When I had almost lost hope, I finally saw Kapil taking a stroll. I was so excited to meet the Indian team I realised when I met Kapil that I was wearing two different shoes on my feet. Chasing Kapil down was not an easy task as he was walking real quick. So, I finally ran behind him and pulled on his coat to stop," said Kichcha recalling his moment with the icon.

Did Kapil get angry with the young boy who pulled his coat? Not at all, Kichcha said. Instead Kapil asked the young boy why he was stopped. "I told him that I was his big fan. So, Kapil asked me what he can do for me. My only dream was to get a photograph of Kapil. I had a Fuji camera and asked him for a picture. There were no selfies at that time. So Kapil asked me who would click the picture if both of us were in it. So, I pointed to my elder sister, who had also followed me as I was running. We were both posing and she was all set to click the picture, when I realised that the camera wasn't working. I was heartbroken and tears rolled down my eyes. This moved Kapil so much that he lifted me up and wiped my tears," said Sudeep.

Sudeep and Kapil Dev at a promotional event for 83

Then, an emotional Kapil Dev told the boy not to worry as they both could pose for a picture another day.

"Kapil's generosity didn't stop there. He asked me if he could do anything else or make me meet someone else. I said I wanted to meet Dilip Vengsarkar now. So, Kapil took me to where Vengsarkar was staying," Sudeep added.

However, on Saturday last, Sudeep finally got a chance for that photo-op with Kapil Dev during the promotional event of '83' film which is based on India's maiden World Cup victory.

Sudeep praising Kapil said, "On that day, when Kapil realised that my camera was not working, he could have just walked away but as I was crying he obliged my request. That was the day when he was not just a hero on the ground but also turned out to be a real hero for me."

Tunnelling work holds up Metro line

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The cumulative percentage of the tunnel work in this stretch is 4.76 per cent of the total stretch.

Meanwhile, Urja TBM has completed Cantonment Railway Station to Shivajinagar station (total length of 864 m) while Vindhya has also completed 100 per cent. Both the TBMs (Urja and Vindhya) are being retrieved for transporting, lowering and assembling at the Cantonment Station for the next drive from Cantonment to Pottery Town.

Among the other stretches, TBM Avni has completed 86.5 per cent of the work (south bound) between Shivajinagar and Rashtriya Military School and Lavi has been able to tunnel 59 per cent (north bound) on the same stretch. On the other stretches, Rudra (north bound) has completed 100 per cent of the tunnelling between south ramps to Dairy Circle and Vamika is done with 72.3 per cent (south bound) on the same stretch. Varada, which is tunnelling north bound between Rashtriya Military School to the Launching Shaft to Langford Town station, has tunnelled 99.10 per cent of its target.

According to the newsletter, Metro had achieved an operational efficiency of 99.98 per cent in November with 81,51,449 passengers aboard, recording a revenue of ₹20.41 crore. The highest ridership was reported on November 29 (3,29,553) while the highest earnings was collected on November 8 (₹87,59,115). Among the commuters, 66.61 per cent used smart cards, 33.27 per cent used tokens and 0.12 per cent used group tickets.

Bullying, not policing, allege motorists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

speak to the senior officer. I told them that my daughter was crying and I had to leave as I had all the documents. Still, they started to intimidate me saying I didn't have the FasTag. I use my car only inside the city and it's not necessary to have FasTag, but still they insisted that I should have FasTag. As far as I understood, they expected a bribe but when I started to argue saying there was no such rule, they left me after wasting 20 to 30 minutes of my time," he said.

In a similar incident, Darshan, a resident of JB Nagar said the traffic cops often hide behind vehicles and suddenly jump right into the front to stop the vehicles which is a very dangerous precedent - people often get scared and may fall down or hit another vehicle or even injure the cops: "I have a new vehicle, just 11 months old. There are no pending traffic fines to my name. I was stopped for no reason by the police near my house and was asked to submit all the documents. As I had all the documents, they asked for an emission test certificate. I told them that as it is a new vehicle, an emission test is not needed for a year. Soon, they started to abuse me. They threatened me saying they could seize the vehicle and I could argue in the court instead."

On Saturday, during the grievance meeting with the city police commissioner live on social media, citizens raised the issue of regularly being harassed by the traffic police who often stop them unnecessarily.

"Stopping vehicles for no reason is not right and such instances should not take place in the city. I will speak to the DCPs to make sure it doesn't repeat and if anyone faces such harassment from the traffic police in the future, they can contact the DCP traffic (East) and we shall take action," city police chief Kamal Pant said in his public address. **(*name changed)**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

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I Ramkumar Swaminathan r/o 36/2,12 Main/8C GokulEX,Bangalore changed my minor daughter's name from R Akshadha to Akshadha Ramkumar.

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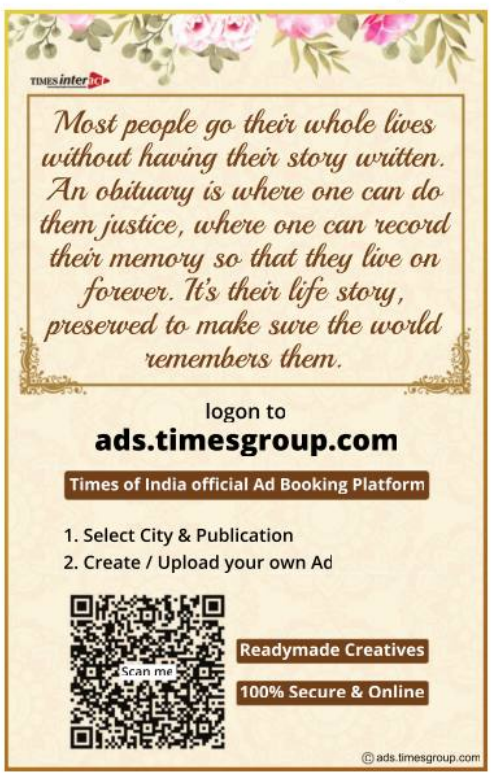
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Most people go their whole lives without having their story written. An obituary is where one can do them justice, where one can record their memory so that they live on forever. It's their life story, preserved to make sure the world remembers them.
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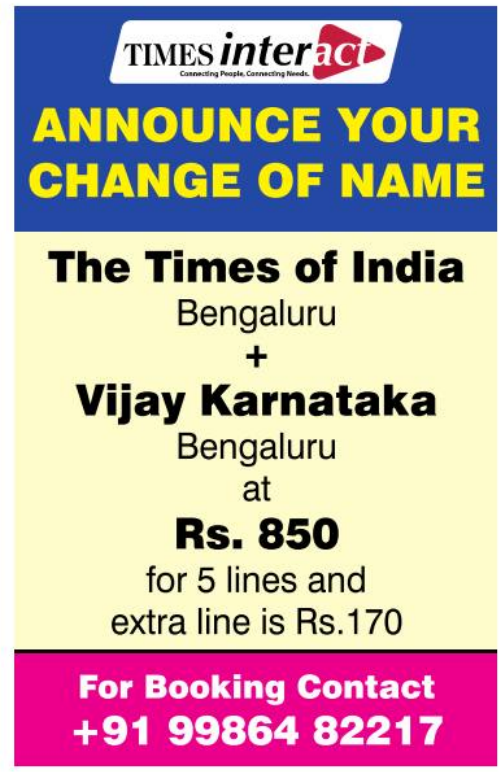

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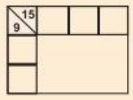
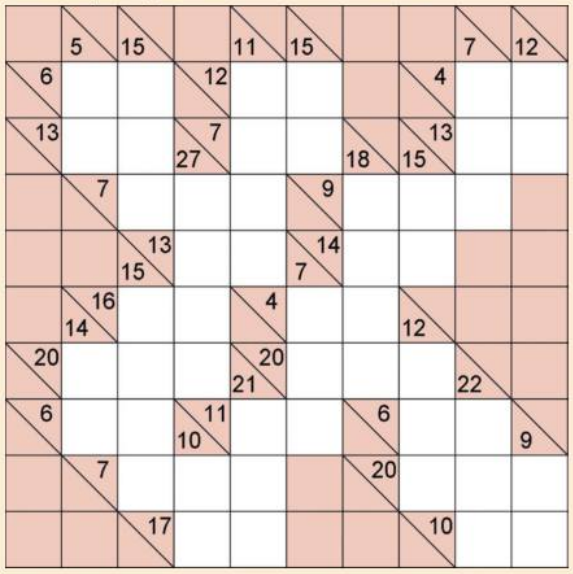
Kakuro

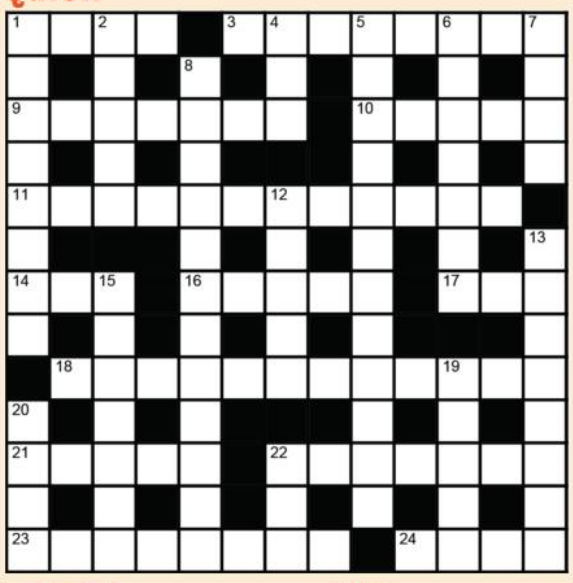
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Large mice (4)
3 Small opening (8)
9 Wild horse (7)
10 Of birth (5)
11 Ill-omened (12)
14 ____ into: corrode? (3)
16 Decoration on a cake (5)
17 Feminine pronoun (3)
18 Bringing out; developing good or bad qualities? (7,5)
21 Very clever people (5)
22 Be hurt emotionally? (4,3)
23 Abruptly (8)
24 Multiplex at Garuda Mall (4)

DOWN

1 Stayed back, stuck with or survived (8)
2 Hard shell (5)
4 Small stocky dog (3)
5 Following or chasing (7,5)
6 Lie or fib (7)
7 ___ Stanley Gardener : mystery writer? (4)
8 French national anthem (12)
12 In Greek mythology he was chained to a revolving wheel in Hades (5)
13 Conventional (8)
15 Coached (7)
19 Batman's sidekick (5)
20 Freudian terms (4)
22 Fly-by-light (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS G

TOQCBDMCXDTB GICOXU CBL PCBGV XDXAYU GTRBX PTO BYZX XT BTXIDBQ.

Linemaro

Hi, I am conducting a field test. May I kiss you?

Mindchow

When you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere

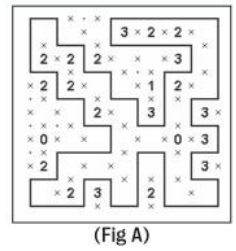
Joke of the day

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it

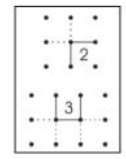
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

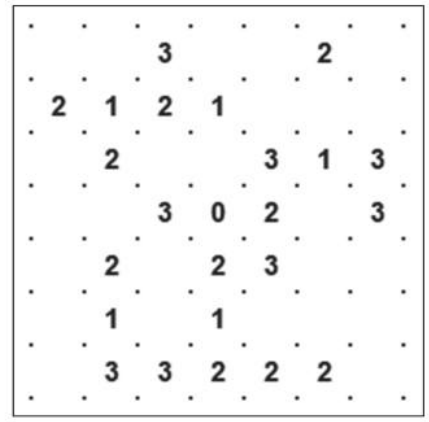


(Fig B) Not Allowed

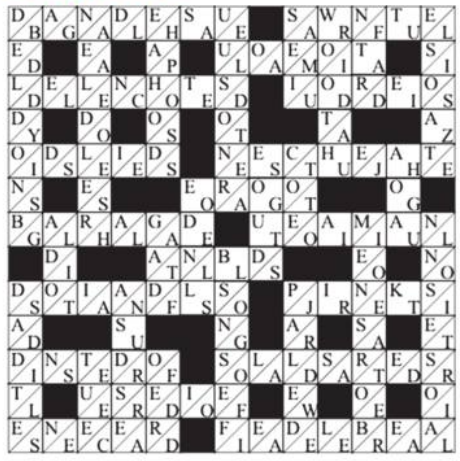
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



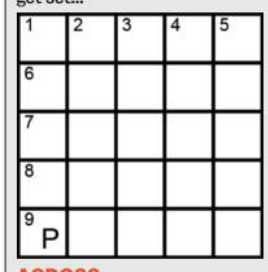
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

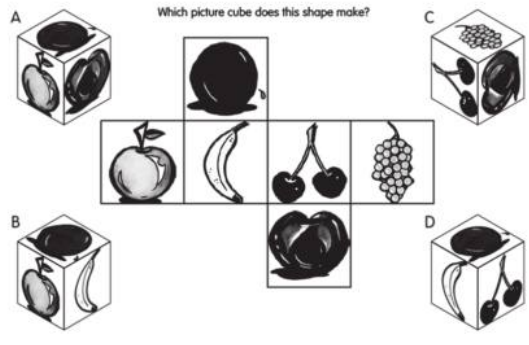
1 Trams; 6 Enrol;
7 Tuile; 8 Ems me;
9 Splat

DOWN

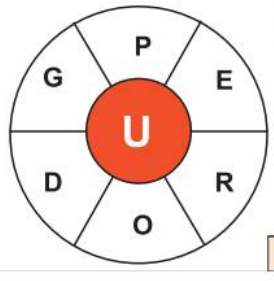
1 Lumps; 2 To elm;
3 Amain; 4 T reel;
5 Rests

Mensa puzzle

Which picture cube does this shape make?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1					6			5
	5	2					1	
				7	5		8	
8		1	4		7			
		5		9		7		
			6		2	3		8
	7		5	3				
	4					1	6	
2			8					9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

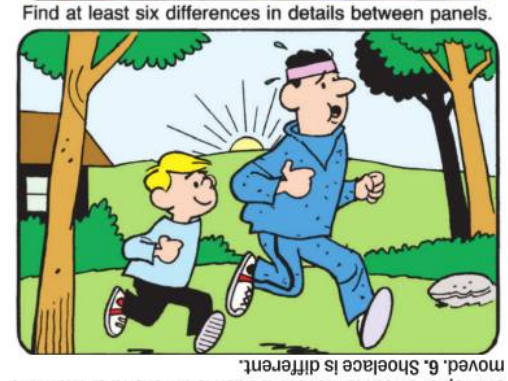
Easy = 26
2 3 4 4

Medium = 23
3 4 7 9

Hard = 6
2 6 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



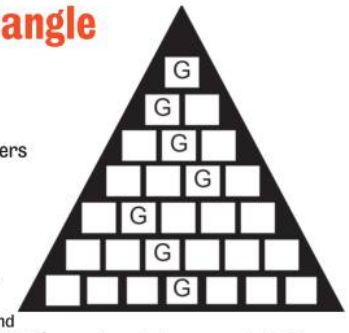
Differences: 1. Stripe is moved. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Drop of sweat is moved. 4. Bush is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Shoelace is different.

Riddler

What king can you make if you take – the head of a lamb, the middle of a pig, the hind of a buffalo and the tail of a dragon?

Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbr.
2 Depart
3 Self-image
4 Therefore L:
5 Fairy tale monsters
6 Scoundrels
7 Mortuaries



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE